

From: K. P. CLARK
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 6:27pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In regard to Microsoft:

For five years now I have determined each year to buy a laptop computer. However, every time I come close to buying one, we get down to what software to include. On my desktop I have the Windows Operating System and Microsoft Office Professional, which includes programs which I seldom or never use. I am a teacher and a writer, and want the laptop to carry back and forth to the college. What I need on it is the Windows operating system and Microsoft Word. That is all. Can I buy just that? No. I have to buy an entire set of programs that I don't need and won't use. This is annoying, to say the least. Plus there is a program related to a subject I teach that I would like to load onto the computer, but other professors who have tried, tell me it is not compatible with the Microsoft operating system and has messed up their system, so I won't buy that program either. I hear my students complain similarly.

I have determined to forego the laptop so long as this problem exists. Do I have lots of choices? No. I could go with a Mac - a nice system - except for the problem of transferring data to my desktop. I could go with a Linux operating system but understand that is difficult to learn to use. So I will continue to use my old desk top and the computer at school until - and unless - I have a more viable choice than paying money for a bunch of programs I don't want. At least I have that those options. I hear that Microsoft only affects its competitors and not the consumer. I don't understand how anyone can say this. I am a very small computer user, and if it affects me at my level, it must affect many others.

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